

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
KEY WEST BUREAU

MAIN P.O. BOX 1056  
KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040

MFL-2007  
21 January 1982

STAT

TO:

[redacted]  
Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Communications Contingency Plan Meeting

Dear Jerry:

On 12 January 1982, Communications Officer [redacted] and I attended a meeting--called by Cmdr K.K. Yasutome of CUSFC/J6--of all communications users (FBIS was the only nonmilitary group represented) on the lower Keys to discuss what could be done to assure a minimum level of communications for each unit should a natural disaster--storm or an ocean liner tearing out cables and microwave towers at 7-mile bridge, for example--occur.

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At present the only unit with an HF transmitter which could be brought on line is NAVCOMMU. These are the people who presently handle our traffic. They would be able to handle a 16-channel tone package, transmitting it out to Norfolk, with their HF facility.

Because of the low priority given FBIS we would be unable to move any but operational immediate traffic on a very restricted basis under this configuration. At this point each unit was asked to consider its minimal operational needs in such an event and to report the needs back to Cmdr Yasutome, so he, in turn, could prepare a single appeal to DOD for facilities to upgrade the communications links for the military and civilian units on the Keys. What he would like is a stand-by or permanent satellite link; a rather unlikely eventuality I gather.

Unless we have contacts to get a higher priority for our traffic, there is no way under such conditions that the bureau would be able to provide anything but a classified message indicating the nature and possible length of the outage and, perhaps, an occasional immediate message reporting on our coverage area. The military would have too many high priority operational demands on the facilities to leave much time for FBIS. Considering our priority status, Cmdr Yasutome requires no report of needs from us, because in effect the priority level sets the limitations on our requirements level. So as far as he is concerned he needs no further information from us.

Sincerely,

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[redacted]  
Chief, Key West Bureau

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